

THE HOLY BIBLE

TELEPLAY EDITION

Episode 1005

"From Babel to Canaan"

by

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Based on the novel by God

TEASER

EXT. PALACE OF BABEL - NIGHT

SUPER: "1999 Anno Mundi"

The moon stands high above the City of Babel. The remains of the Tower of Babel stand in the center of the city. The city sleeps in peace.

INT. PALACE - NIMROD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The king of Babel, NIMROD (92), sleeps peacefully in his bed. However, as he sleeps, he becomes restless. He appears to be dreaming.

EXT. CITY OF BABEL TOWN SQUARE - DAY - DREAM SEQUENCE

The great furnace stands in the square where Abram had emerged from it, but this furnace is huge and stands in the place of the ruined tower. The fire from within burns brightly. Nimrod stands with a great army across the valley from the furnace, as if he does not rule the city, but plans to attack it.

From the midst of the furnace steps Abram, but he is bathed in flames like a man of fire. In his hands he holds a sword. Nimrod gasps as if FIRE ABRAM were right in front of him. Suddenly, Fire Abram is right in front of Nimrod, sword drawn, ready to attack.

Nimrod begins to run in slow motion away from Fire Abram. His troops do not move, only separate to allow Nimrod passage. Fire Abram does not move, but as Nimrod passes the far end of his army, Fire Abram reels back and throws an EGG at Nimrod.

The Egg hits Nimrod in the head and cracks open spilling out water behind him. The water turns into a great river and his army sinks within it.

Nimrod turns around to find three other men before him. The men are dressed in garments of kings and have the appearance of kings. Together, they all run from Fire Abram.

Behind them, the river turns back into an egg. The egg hatches and a bird flies at Nimrod and lands on his head. The bird pecks out Nimrod's eyes.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. PALACE - NIMROD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nimrod screams himself awake, sitting up in bed.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. PALACE - DAY

Nimrod's palace, now in the daytime, in the city of Babel.

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

Nimrod sits upon his throne, waiting. He still looks shaken from the previous evening. In the room are his servants, Kederlaomer, and most notably, ELIEZER, the servant Nimrod assigned to Abram. The throne rooms doors open and a wise servant of the king, ANUKI, walks up to him and kneels.

ANUKI

May the king live!

NIMROD

Rise, Anuki.

ANUKI

How may I please the king this day?

NIMROD

Anuki, your wisdom has always guided me in the right paths. I had a dream last night that troubled me greatly.

ANUKI

Tell me your dream, oh king, and I will interpret it rightly.

NIMROD

I stood by the king's furnace with my armies, and from the furnace stepped Abram, clothed in fire. He came at me with his sword drawn and I ran, but as I did, he threw an egg which, when it struck me, turned into a river that swallowed my armies. I escaped with three other men, who also had the bearing of kings. The river turned back into an egg from which a bird hatched. It flew to me and pecked out my eyes. What is the meaning of this, Anuki?

ANUKI

The king's dream is troubling indeed.

NIMROD

Do you know the meaning?

ANUKI

This is nothing else but the evil of Abram and his seed which will spring up against my lord and king in the latter days.

NIMROD

How can you be sure of this? Abram is a friend of the Chaldeans. He is a teacher and servant of the God of the universe. Why would he turn against me?

ANUKI

It is in the dream the king had. The day will come when Abram and his seed and the children of his household will war with my king, and they will destroy all the king's hosts and troops. About the three men who were like yourself and who escaped with you: this means that only you will escape with three kings of the earth who will be with you in battle. As for the river which turned to an egg and then the bird that plucked out your eyes: this is nothing else but the seed of Abram who will slay the king in the latter days. This is my king's dream and its interpretation. The dream is true and the interpretation is right.

Nimrod walks across his throne room, looking somewhere between stunned and betrayed.

NIMROD

How is this possible?

ANUKI

My king, surely you know that it is now fifty-two years since we saw this at the birth of Abram, and if my king would allow Abram to live on the earth, it will be to the death of my lord and king. As long as Abram lives, neither you, nor your kingdom will be established. This was known at his birth. Why won't my king kill him so his evil can be kept from you?

NIMROD

Why indeed? I have been warned already and the signs have not changed.

ANUKI

Indeed, they have not, my lord.

NIMROD

Very well. Kederlaomer. Call the guards. Go with Anuki. Seize Abram and bring him before me, so he can suffer death!

Eliezer, upon hearing this, sneaks out of the throne room.

KEDERLAOMER

Yes, my lord.

ANUKI

At once, my lord.

EXT. ABRAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Abram and Sarai sit at their dining room table. Sarai eats marginally. Abram watches her, worried.

ABRAM

Sarai, what has been troubling you?

SARAI

Hm? Oh, it's nothing.

ABRAM

I am your husband. I have grown to know you well in the past 2 years since our father gave you to me for a wife.

SARAI

Yes, he was quite insistent that you not take for a wife from anyone but our own family.

ABRAM

And rightly so. The family line must be kept as pure as possible without the corruptive practices of these people.

SARAI

Yes.

ABRAM

However, you avoided the question.

Sarai pushes her food away. She stands and walks away from the table. Concerned, Abram walks over to her. She is crying.

ABRAM

Please, my love, what is wrong?

SARAI

Can't you figure it out?

ABRAM

Not unless you tell me.

SARAI

How many children do you see?

ABRAM

What?

SARAI

Children, Abram, children. None! That's how many.

ABRAM

Perhaps it isn't our time yet.

SARAI

Your faith is admirable, but let's be realistic. I'm barren. I can't have children. I'm a disgrace to you and to our family. You would have been better off not marrying me. You should find another.

ABRAM

I will not. You are my wife, and if God has not deemed us ready to have children, then we will not have them until we are.

SARAI

Just leave me alone for a moment.

Sarai leaves in tears. Abram is powerless to stop her.

The door slams open. Eliezer stands in the doorway.

ELIEZER

Abram!

ABRAM

Eliezer! What's wrong?

ELIEZER

It's the king.

ABRAM

What about him?

ELIEZER

He had a dream about you. He had Anuki interpret, and Anuki said you and your seed will destroy him.

ABRAM

Well, Sarai would find the seed part encouraging.



ELIEZER

Not if you don't get out of here.  
The king has called up his guards  
to bring you before him to kill  
you.

ABRAM

Ok, get some things together for  
me to travel with. I've got to  
tell Sarai.

ELIEZER

Yes, sir.

Abram walks to his bedroom. He opens the door. Sarai sits  
within, her back to him. He speaks tenderly.

ABRAM

Sarai.

SARAI

Yes?

ABRAM

Eliezer just came with news from the  
palace.

SARAI

What about it?

ABRAM

Well, there's no easy way to say  
this... The king is threatening my  
life again. His guards are on their  
way here right now to take me before  
him so he can kill me.

Sarai spins on him, shocked.

SARAI

What?

ABRAM

I have to go for a while.

SARAI

Where?

ABRAM

I'll go stay with Noah and Shem.  
This can't continue, though. I'll  
ask God to find out what we are to  
do.

Sarai gives him a desperate hug.

SARAI

I wish I could go with you.

Abram looks into her eyes.

ABRAM

Stay with father. I'll send for you  
if we need to leave.

SARAI

Ok.

They kiss, briefly.

SARAI

I love you.

ABRAM

I love you. Go to our father's  
before they arrive.

SARAI

(nodding)

Ok.

She quickly gathers some things together. Abram leaves the room  
and meets Eliezer at the door.

ABRAM

Thank you, Eliezer. Go help Sarai.  
Stay with her. Escort her to our  
father's house.

ELIEZER

Yes, sir.

ABRAM

Thank you.

Abram hugs Eliezer.

ELIEZER

Be careful.

ABRAM

I will.

Abram exits. Eliezer heads back for the bedroom.

EXT. ABRAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Abram looks quickly around and runs down the street away from the palace. He watches his house. Eliezer escorts Sarai with some of her things out of the house and towards Terah's house.

As Abram runs away, the king's guards approach his house, led by Kederlaomer and Anuki. They bang on the door and then bust it in. Kederlaomer waits outside.

Abram runs down the streets away from his house and out of town.

Anuki comes back out of the house and looks around for him.

ANUKI

Find him! He can't have gone far!

KEDERLAOMER

Scour the streets. Block the gates.  
Don't let him leave.

The guards flood the town.

Abram exits the town and runs across the fields towards Noah's house.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Terah is sitting peacefully with Amhelo and Kedurah. There is a knock at the door. Kedurah gets up and opens the door.

KEDURAH

Sarai?

Eliezer and Sarai enter.

TERAH

What's going on?

ELIEZER

The king has turned on Abram again.

TERAH

Where is he?

ELIEZER

He has left the land of Ur. He returned to Noah and Shem.

EXT. NOAH'S VINEYARD - DAY

Abram walks across the vineyard toward Noah's house.

INT. NOAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Sedeqetelebab is serving Noah and Shem when she looks out the window.

SHEM

What is it, Sedeqetelebab?

SEDEQETELEBAB

Abram's coming.

Noah and Shem both jump for the door.

EXT. NOAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Noah and Shem look off to find Abram walking toward them.

NOAH

Abram! What are you doing here?

Abram hugs Noah and then Shem.

ABRAM

History repeats itself. The king wants to take my life again. I hope I can weather this storm with you again.

NOAH

Of course.

SHEM

You'll just need to tell us all about it.

ABRAM

Well, based on what all I know, it won't take that long...

EXT. NOAH'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "One Month Later"

Terah walks through Noah's vineyard to the house and knocks. Sedeqetelebab answers.

SEDEQETELEBAB

Oh, hello Terah. Come in.

TERAH

Is Abram still here?

SEDEQETELEBAB

Yes, he's talking with Noah and Shem.

TERAH

Thank you.

Terah walks through the house.

EXT. NOAH'S VINEYARD - DAY

Noah, Shem, and Abram sit around a table outside, talking.

ABRAM

How old are you now, Noah?

NOAH

943, Abram. And Shem is...oh, I forget.

SHEM

441, I believe.

ABRAM

Nimrod's not that old, though.

NOAH

Still a baby in his 90's.

ABRAM

But anymore, people don't live anywhere near that long. My great-great-great-grandfather Peleg, his son, Reu, and my grandfather, Nahor have all died of old age. What has changed?

Shem and Noah look at each other for a moment. Shem shrugs. Noah thinks for a moment.

NOAH

My grandfather, Methuselah, knew Adam. He had asked about life in the Garden of Eden, and Adam told him all about the Tree of Life and of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Methuselah told me, I told my children and you. We have two suspicions: Methuselah never asked Adam if he ate the fruit of the tree of life. We just assumed he and Eve did. As the generations grow further and further from Adam, the long-life effect of the tree of life is just wearing off.

ABRAM

What's your other thought?

NOAH

My other thought is just that man has grown more sinful, and since sin is death, man is dying sooner. I guess when man failed to take the flood seriously, God is just cutting back their lifespans.

SHEM

I'm not sure which answer is better.

NOAH

It's probably a combination of both.

ABRAM

Probably.

Terah walks up.

TERAH

Abram.

ABRAM

Yes, father.

NOAH

Oh, hello Terah.

TERAH

Hello, Noah. Shem.

SHEM

Terah.

TERAH

Abram, you can come back home. Nimrod sent his troops everywhere looking for you, but when he couldn't find you, he gave up. His anger has subsided, and he's all but forgotten about it again.

ABRAM

He's forgotten about it now, but what about next time? Or the next? Or the next? You know this is the third time he has wanted to kill me. When will it stop?

TERAH

But it's over for now.

ABRAM

For now, yes. But as soon as the king has another dream or more signs are in the heavens, he will again decide to kill me on the advice of his wicked counselors.

TERAH

What do you propose to do, then?

ABRAM

Well, what do you have here? What is in Ur for you?

TERAH

What are you asking of me?

ABRAM

Let's leave Ur of the Chaldeans behind us and go together to the land of Canaan. We will be delivered from the hand of Nimrod, or else you too will perish in those latter days.

TERAH

Nimrod has made me great.

ABRAM

Do you think it through love that Nimrod gives you what he does? He gives you honor for his own benefit. I believe a fair amount of your living was for my life.

Terah looks wounded.



ABRAM

And if Nimrod bestows on you even greater things than he has, these things are only vanities of the world, for wealth and riches cannot save you in the day of wrath and anger. So, listen to me! Let's take everyone and go to the land of Canaan, out of the reach of Nimrod. There, we will serve the Lord who created you in the earth, and it will be well with you. Do away with all the worthless things you pursue now.

Terah looks at Abram with rapt indecision. He glances to Noah and Shem, as if asking for reassurance.

NOAH

Abram speaks the truth.

Terah considers it further, and finally looks at Abram.

TERAH

I will do all that you have said, for I believe this word is from the Lord, and it is to prevent your death by the hand of the king.

EXT. VALLEY OVERLOOK - DAY

Terah stands looking down of the City of Babel with Amhelo, Kedurah, Abram, Sarai, Lot, Nahor, and Milcah. They turn away from the city and set out across the vast plains for the land of Canaan.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. TERAH'S LAND - DAY

SUPER: "2022 Anno Mundi"

Terah has his family on what appears to be a large farm. A central house is surrounded by a lot of land. There are cattle, sheep, and goats grazing on the land.

Two men walk toward a large gathering of people among the sheep. Abram, now 75, stands before them, talking.

MAN 1

So who is this man?

MAN 2

He is Abram, son of Terah. He came to us from Ur and the Lord his God is with him. All of the land of Haran comes to listen.

MAN 1

What does he talk about?

MAN 2

Life.

The men enter the area where all the people are and stand with them. Abram speaks.

ABRAM

And so it was before the flood, the people did as they pleased. They disgraced their marriages. They rejected natural relations for unnatural. They worshipped images of stone and wood. They forgot the God who made them and their fathers and their children and this earth. So God gave them 120 years to repent, but they refused, so he took one man, Noah, and his family - 8 in all - into a great ark to

(MORE)

ABRAM (CONT'D)

preserve humanity, and in that flood, destroyed all who rebelled against him. We must always love each other for we are all descended from one man and are all of one family. We are all the children of Adam, the first man, and Noah after him. God be with you all.

The crowd disperses. Abram walks over to Terah.

TERAH

I appreciate that the people of the land of Haran revere you as a teacher, but it upsets the sheep.

ABRAM

I can't just turn them away when they want to learn.

TERAH

And I will not stop you. God has been gracious to us, regardless of my former sins.

ABRAM

It was a long time ago. I have returned now these last five years to be with you, but now I must consider a time to return to Canaan.

TERAH

You were in Canaan during the wars between Kedorlaomer and Nimrod, where Nimrod was disgraced in defeat at the hand of his prince of armies and now rules only under the hand of Kedorlaomer.

ABRAM

God promised to my children the land of Canaan just before I returned, though. He said my seed will be as numerous as the stars in the heavens. I do not know when this promise will take effect, though, as Sarai remains barren. I worry.

TERAH

What I have learned from you, my son, is that when God tells you something, it will happen. You should be patient and wait for his promises.

Abram smiles.

ABRAM

It makes me happy to be able to hear wisdom from my earthly father.

TERAH

I only use your own words against you.

ABRAM

I need it, sometimes.

TERAH

We all do.

Terah and Abram walk back to the house.

ABRAM

I was hoping that when I returned, you could come with me.

TERAH

I can't. Wherever God sends you, you must go, but my journey must end here.

ABRAM

You're only 165.

TERAH

Yes, but we don't live as long as our ancestors. My father, Nahor, died at 119. I am beginning to feel old. God has called you to Canaan. You will end your journey there, but mine is done here.

ABRAM

I understand.

TERAH

When you leave again, you should also take Lot with you.

ABRAM

Lot declined to go before.

TERAH

But he is restless. He needs space of his own, and I would feel better about his future there.

ABRAM

Then we will take him.

TERAH

Thank you.

They enter the house.

EXT. TERAH'S LAND - NIGHT

Abram sits alone looking at the stars. Sarai sits next to him.

SARAI

What are you doing?

ABRAM

Looking at the stars. They are so numerous, one could not even count them.

SARAI

It's beautiful.

ABRAM

Majestic.

They look at the stars for a moment longer.

SARAI

How long are you going to stay  
out here?

ABRAM

I'll be in shortly.

SARAI

All right.

She kisses him, and then goes inside. Abram watches her and then  
turns back to the heavens.

ABRAM

You said you would multiply my  
seed like the stars of the heavens,  
but when?

GOD

Abram.

Abram prostrates himself.

ABRAM

Here am I.

GOD

It is time. Leave your country, your  
people and your father's household  
and go to the land I will show you.  
I will make you into a great nation  
and I will bless you; I will make  
your name great, and you will be a  
blessing. I will bless those who  
bless you, and whoever curses you  
I will curse; and all peoples on  
earth will be blessed through you.

ABRAM

All peoples on earth?

GOD

Go to Canaan.

ABRAM

Yes, Lord.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Abram walks in to find the whole family: Terah, Amhelo, Kedurah, Lot, Nahor, Milcah, and Sarai. Sarai walks over to him.

SARAI

Is everything all right?

ABRAM

Yes.

SARAI

What's going on?

ABRAM

We're going back to Canaan.

SARAI

Ok.

EXT. WILDERNESS BETWEEN HARAN AND CANAAN - DAY

Abram and his band of nearly 70 servants and hosts of cattle, sheep, and goats along with Sarai and Lot travel through the wilderness.

EXT. PLAIN OF MAMRE - DAY

The company has set up camp. Two distinct camps form with Abram on one side with his many possessions and Lot on the other side.

SARAI

Where are we?

ABRAM

We're in Canaan. This is the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem.

SARAI

Oh? And what was that?

ABRAM

I have no idea. The men we passed  
back there told me what this is.

Sarai laughs.

ABRAM

It's good to hear you laugh. You  
haven't seemed very happy lately.

SARAI

I'm just worried.

ABRAM

About what?

SARAI

That maybe your blessing of  
countless offspring won't be  
through me.

Abram takes her in his arms.

ABRAM

We have been married now for 25  
years. I don't believe God would  
have you with me and give me this  
promise if he did not intend you  
to share in it.

Sarai nods. He holds her for a moment, before they release.

SARAI

I'll start on some food for us.

ABRAM

Ok.

Sarai walks away.

ABRAM

Sarai.



She turns to him.

ABRAM

It'll be ok.

She nods and heads to their tent.

Abram looks out across the land of Canaan. Plains stretch as far as he can see. Settlements of the Canaanites dot the landscape.

Suddenly, a blinding light appears in front of Abram. It has the form of a man, but through the light, it is impossible to see any features. Abram shields his eyes.

GOD

To your seed, I will give this  
land.

The light fades away. Abram looks out with awe. Sarai runs up to him.

SARAI

What was that?

ABRAM

(wonderstruck)

I have seen God, and I live.

SARAI

SEEN God?

ABRAM

Prepare a sacrifice to the Lord.  
I will prepare the altar. We must  
give to him of our blessings.

Sarai runs off as Abram gathers stones.

EXT. PLAIN OF MAMRE - NIGHT

Abram stands before an altar upon which meat burns. The flames stretch high into the heavens and light the land for some distance. Abram prays.

ABRAM

Oh, God and creator of the heavens  
and the earth. We thank you for  
the promise you have given. And we  
humbly accept the gift of this  
land, not for us, but for the  
offspring you will give us. Thank  
you, Almighty God, we are unworthy  
of your love.

The flames crackle into the night and smoke rises into the  
clouds.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. ABRAM'S CAMP - DAY

Abram's and Lot's camp stand side by side in a different part of Canaan. The ground now, however, is quite parched. The livestock eats of patches of grass. There is very little water.

INT. ABRAM'S TENT - DAY

Abram enters and sits with Sarai.

ABRAM

I don't know if we can stay here much longer. The land seems to be experiencing a famine.

SARAI

Where are we to go? Should we return to our father in Haran?

ABRAM

No! Haran is too far north for us to get there without losing everything we have to this famine.

SARAI

Then what do we do?

LOT

We go to Egypt.

They look over to find Lot standing in their tent.

LOT

Egypt is not weathering a famine, and we support ourselves, so we shouldn't have a problem.

Sarai turns to Abram, who looks worried.

SARAI

Egypt?

LOT

Abram?

ABRAM

Are you certain that Egypt will  
be safe for us?

LOT

Why wouldn't it be? We are nothing  
more than shepherds. We keep to  
ourselves.

ABRAM

I have heard of what happens there.  
They do not fear our God. They  
worship idols and many false gods.  
They even tax the dead.

LOT

If we stay in Canaan, we die.

Abram finally nods.

ABRAM

Ok. We don't have a choice. Prepare  
your camp. We leave for Egypt  
tomorrow.

Lot nods and exits.

EXT. CANAAN - DAY

The great company moves across the landscape until they arrive  
at the brook Mitzraim, near the border of Egypt.

EXT. BROOK MITZRAIM - DAY

Abram stands looking over to Egypt. Sarai stands at his side.

SARAI

So that's Egypt.

ABRAM

Yes, it is.

SARAI

Why were you really so concerned  
before we left?

ABRAM

God has made you very beautiful.  
Because of this, I am afraid the  
Egyptians might kill me and take  
you away, for they do not fear  
God.

SARAI

What do want to do?

ABRAM

Do this: Say you are my sister, so  
that I will be treated well for  
your sake and my life will be spared  
because of you.

SARAI

What about everyone else? What if  
they are questioned?

ABRAM

I will tell everyone to do the  
same. They must say you are my  
sister.

SARAI

If that's what we have to do, I  
will do it.

ABRAM

Good.

They embrace.

EXT. BROOK MITZRAIM - DAY

The company is ready to move out. Abram is with Lot next to his  
company.

ABRAM

When we're in Egypt, I want you  
to tell them she is my sister.

LOT

What if they take her for their  
wife? What about her honor?

ABRAM

Why would they take her?

LOT

Why wouldn't they? She's very beautiful.

Abram looks over the Sarai with his half of the company. She smiles at him.

ABRAM

Just spread the word.

LOT

Ok.

Abram walks over to a chest in the midst of his caravan. Sarai looks over to him, confused. He opens the chest and shuffles the items out of it into other containers around it.

SARAI

What are you doing?

ABRAM

I can't take the risk.

SARAI

What risk?

Abram finishes emptying the chest and gestures her to come to him.

ABRAM

That they will take you from me.

SARAI

Take me from you?

ABRAM

Yes, if you are my sister, that makes you available. And you're not.

SARAI

You don't want me to get in there.

ABRAM

Yes.

SARAI

Do you know how hot it is?

ABRAM

Of course.

SARAI

How long?

ABRAM

Just until we get through town.

Sarai looks at him for moment, clearly upset by this idea. She sighs.

SARAI

All right. If you think it's best.

ABRAM

Thank you.

Sarai climbs in.

ABRAM

I love you.

SARAI

Uh-huh.

Abram closes the lid and conceals the chest among his other possessions. He heads out to the side again. Lot is looking at him, incredulous.

LOT

Did you just put Sarai in a chest?

ABRAM

You saw it. Why ask?

Lot shakes his head.

LOT

I can't believe you put her in a chest.

ABRAM

Well, I did. I'm not going to have some Egyptian taking my wife.

LOT

You mean your sister.

ABRAM

You know very well what I mean. Let's go.

EXT. EGYPTIAN CITY OUTSKIRTS - DAY

Abram and company walks across the slowly-becoming-lush countryside towards the main city through which they must pass in order to partake of the country.

EXT. EGYPTIAN CITY - DAY

Abram and company enter the expansive city. They do not stop, as if hoping to get past it to settle on the far side. Some EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS stop them.

HEAD OFFICIAL

Stop!

ABRAM

(to the company)

Stop!

The Head Official walks up to Abram.

HEAD OFFICIAL

Are you the head of this company?

ABRAM

I am.

HEAD OFFICIAL

And your name?



ABRAM

Abram, son of Terah.

HEAD OFFICIAL

Give tithe to the king from what you have, and then you may come into the town.

ABRAM

Of course. Lot!

Lot runs up to Abram.

ABRAM

The king requires a tithe before we enter.

LOT

What is the tithe?

HEAD OFFICIAL

A tenth of all you own.

LOT

A tenth!?

Abram holds his hand up to calm Lot.

ABRAM

We will provide the king with his tithe.

The Head Official walks up and down the caravan as the company measures out a tenth from their possessions to other officials. They open every chest to show the worth within, and give a tenth of that worth.

The Head Official notices the chest in which Sarai travels. He also notices no one is touching it.

HEAD OFFICIAL

Abram, son of Terah!

Abram walks to the Head Official.

ABRAM

Yes?

HEAD OFFICIAL

What do you have in this chest which we have not seen? Open it and give the king his tithe of all of contains.

ABRAM

I cannot open the chest, but all you demand upon it, I will give.

HEAD OFFICIAL

Is it a chest of precious stones? Give us a tenth of it.

ABRAM

All that you desire, I will give, but we cannot open the chest.

HEAD OFFICIAL

You will not enter the city until that chest is opened and a tenth given.

ABRAM

No. Please. I cannot.

The officials press into him. Abram tries to hold them back, but he is easily overpowered, and pushed to the ground. The officials open the chest to find a most beautiful woman within, Sarai.

The officials stand back amazed as she rises from the chest and exits. She looks around.

SARAI

Abram?

Abram scrambles to his feet and runs over to her.

HEAD OFFICIAL

She is most beautiful. Who is she?

ABRAM

She is ... my sister.

HEAD OFFICIAL  
The Pharaoh must have her.

ABRAM  
No. She has to stay with me.

HEAD OFFICIAL  
Send word to the king. Let him know  
what we have found.

Sarai leans into Abram. The officials talk amongst themselves quickly, obviously concerning Sarai.

SARAI  
(whispered; to Abram)  
Don't let them take me. Please don't  
let them.

ABRAM  
Don't worry.

The officials complete their discussion.

HEAD OFFICIAL  
She is to come with us.

ABRAM  
What?

HEAD OFFICIAL  
We know the Pharaoh would be pleased  
with her. She is to come with us.

SARAI  
No!

ABRAM  
I will not agree to this.

HEAD OFFICIAL  
You don't have a choice.

SARAI  
Don't let them take me, Abram. Please.

An official drags her away from Abram.

ABRAM

No!

The Head Official stands between Abram and Sarai.

HEAD OFFICIAL

Stay where you are, Abram, son of Terah. Pharaoh will recompense you greatly for her worth.

Without waiting for an answer, he spins and walks away. The other officials carry away the tithe. Abram stands behind, powerless. Lot walks up behind him.

LOT

I don't think that went as we intended.

Abram drops to his knees and weeps.

INT. PHARAOH'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

The officials lead Sarai into PHARAOH, an imposing man dressed elegantly. He stands at her entrance. Before him stands a MESSENGER, who had left the officials behind. The officials leave her standing before Pharaoh.

PHARAOH

Is this the woman of which you spoke?

MESSENGER

She is, my lord.

PHARAOH

You are a fool. You far underestimated her beauty. Even a goddess is not so adorned.

MESSENGER

We had to bring her to you immediately, so others would not take to her first.

PHARAOH

Where did you find her?

MESSENGER

She traveled with her brother in  
a large caravan.

PHARAOH

Send him a handsome price for his  
sister. She shall make a fine addition  
to my wives.

He walks up to her and touches her face. She flinches.

PHARAOH

Oh, don't worry, my dear. Tonight  
is our wedding night. You shall  
learn to like me, then. Or at  
the very least, you will know me  
as I will know you.

Pharaoh gets very close to her face. She looks away from him.

PHARAOH

Oh, now.

Pharaoh turns her face to him.

PHARAOH

No need to be shy.

He kisses her, and she resists...hard. She breaks the kiss.  
Pharaoh slaps her, knocking her to the ground.

PHARAOH

Take her to my wedding room. She  
will learn how to treat her king  
and husband with respect.

The officials help Sarai up and lead her out.

INT. PHARAOH'S PALACE - WEDDING ROOM - NIGHT

The officials lead Sarai into the room. They close the door  
behind her. She drops to the ground in tears.

SARAI

O Lord God, you told my husband Abram to go from his land and from his father's house to the land of Canaan, and you promised to do well with him if he would perform your commands. We did what you told us to do. We left our land and our families, and we went to a strange land and to a people whom we have not known before. Then we came to this land to avoid the famine, and this evil accident has come upon me. Please, Lord God, deliver us and save us from the hand of this oppressor, and help me according to your mercy.

Sarai collapses to the ground in tears. A light appears in the room. Sarai looks up to see a man standing before her. He is clothed in white and smiles at her kindly.

SARAI

Who are you?

ANGEL

I am an angel of the Lord Do not be afraid, for the Lord has heard your prayer.

Suddenly the door opens, and Pharaoh steps in, followed by a single servant. The angel stands between Pharaoh and Sarai, but it seems Pharaoh doesn't see him.

PHARAOH

Who is the man to you that brought you here?

Sarai looks to the angel who stands silently, watching.

SARAI

(to Pharaoh)

He is my brother.

PHARAOH

And he is Abram, son of Terah?

SARAI

He is.

PHARAOH

It is important to us to make him great, to elevate him and to do to him all the good that is within our power. Servant, send to Abram, son of Terah, silver and gold and precious stones in abundance, together with cattle, menservants, and maidservants. Bring him to me to sit in the court of the king's house.

SERVANT

At once, my king.

The servant leaves. Pharaoh removes his cloak and sets it aside.

PHARAOH

And now, my new love, we have business to attend to.

Pharaoh reaches out to touch Sarai. She tenses up. The angel strikes Pharaoh, knocking him away from Sarai to the ground. Confused, he looks at her. Sarai looks at Pharaoh on the ground, frightened. The angel stands calmly beside her.

Pharaoh gets back to his feet and moves in on her again. The angel, again, strikes him, knocking him to the ground. Pharaoh makes several more attempts to reach Sarai, but each time, he is struck to the ground.

PHARAOH

What is this?

Sarai doesn't respond. In an almost "Superman" fashion, the angel flies out of the room through the wall.

INT. PHARAOH'S PALACE - NIGHT

The angel flies through the palace, in and out of rooms. As he travels, wails begin to rise from within the rooms. The angel stands in the hallway, looks around, nods, and disappears.

INT. PHARAOH'S PALACE - WEDDING ROOM - NIGHT

Pharaoh grabs his cloak and leaves the room.

INT. PHARAOH'S PALACE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Pharaoh stands in the hallway. He hears the cries coming from the rooms. He enters a room. The people within are stricken with terrible boils on their skin. He exits the room and visits several more. Everyone has boils on their skin, even guards in the hallway.

Pharaoh considers this for only a moment before returning to Sarai.

INT. PHARAOH'S PALACE - WEDDING ROOM - NIGHT

He closes the door behind him, sealing out the wails. He does not approach her.

PHARAOH

Tell me, again, about the man you came here with. I want the truth.

SARAI

He is my husband. I told you he was my brother because we were afraid that you would put him to death through your wickedness.

Pharaoh looks at her for a moment.

PHARAOH

You shall be returned to your husband in the morning. You may rest peacefully here tonight.

Pharaoh leaves. Sarai collapses to the ground.

SARAI

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you,  
Lord God, thank you.



INT. PHARAOH'S PALACE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - NIGHT

The boils on the skin of the Pharaoh's people clear up as Pharaoh walks down the halls. As he passes by a guard, he watches the boils clear before his eyes. He freezes, astonished.

INT. PHARAOH'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

Pharaoh sits on his throne. The throne room doors open. Abram is led in. He bows to Pharaoh in respect.

ABRAM

The Pharaoh sent for me.

PHARAOH

(angrily)

What have you done to me?

ABRAM

I'm sorry?

PHARAOH

Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? Why did you say, "She is my sister," so that I took her to be my wife? You brought a plague down on my household!

Pharaoh gestures off to one side. Sarai is brought in. She runs to Abram.

PHARAOH

Now, then, here is your wife.

SARAI

Abram!

They embrace momentarily.

ABRAM

Oh, Sarai, I'm sorry.

PHARAOH

You shall have all you need. More cattle, servants, silver and gold.

ABRAM

Pharaoh is too kind.

PHARAOH

And something for Sarai.

He gestures a young woman, HAGAR, to him.

PHARAOH

This is Hagar, daughter of one of my concubines. She can be a handmaid to Sarai.

HAGAR

Father, you would send me away?

PHARAOH

(to Hagar)

It is better for you to be a handmaid in this man's house than to be mistress in mine. We have witnessed the evil that befell us on account of this woman. You will be blessed with them.

Hagar gives her father a hug and walks over to Sarai. She kneels before her.

SARAI

I am honored.

PHARAOH

Now, take your wife her and go from our land, before we all die on her account.

Abram and Sarai embrace again.

EXT. EGYPT PLAINS - DAY

Abram's and Lot's enormous company grazes on the fertile ground of Egypt. Abram and Sarai stand side by side outside their tent. Hagar stands beside Sarai.

END OF ACT THREE

Source Material:

From the Bible:  
Genesis 12:1-20

From Extra-Canonical Works:  
The Book of Jashar 13:1-28, 15:1-33